

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1297

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bob Rush.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Rush; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rush was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a talented musician, Bob Rush founded Rush's Musical Services in 1958 and, in instituting a new and creative way for school-age children to attain musical instruments, revolutionized the instrument business; and

WHEREAS, the "Rush Plan," as it is now known throughout the country, allowed for the rental of used instruments to students throughout the school year and, if the burgeoning musician wished to purchase the instrument at the end of the year, the rental fees were then applied toward the price of the instrument. The Rush Plan enabled a great many more children to participate in music programs, which cultivated the growth of marching and concert bands throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rush was also very active in marching bands, supporting and encouraging the participation of East Tennessee's marching bands in several parades, marching competitions, and festivals, and the back room of Rush's Music Store was a favorite meeting place for band directors throughout the years. His expertise and experience was invaluable to many band directors in the area; and

WHEREAS, Bob Rush wholeheartedly supported the Best Band in Dixie Parade in New Orleans, which designated him as a Lieutenant Colonel in appreciation; accompanied five East Tennessee bands to the Cinco de Mayo marching competitions in Mexico City, at which his

bands consistently earned top rankings; and underwrote the MidSouth Marching Festival in Gadsden, Alabama, which honors him each year through the presentation of a trophy in his honor; and

WHEREAS, in 1969-70, Bob Rush led a group of 115 young musicians, dubbed the "Dixie Americans," on a performance tour of Europe and, for several years, he led a big jazz band which played in Knoxville and on military bases on the Carolina coast; and

WHEREAS, unwavering in his support of the arts, Mr. Rush advertised for and donated to the Knoxville Symphony, the Knoxville Opera, and the Choral Society; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1945, at the age of eighteen, Bob Rush was drafted into the United States Navy, whereupon he participated in the occupation of Japan until his discharge in August of 1946; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rush leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bob Rush, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Rush.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.